



SAFETY TIP OF THE WEEK



As temperatures increase, the number a motorcycles increase. Please Watch out for motorcycles

BEING VISIBLE

Probably 90 to 95 percent of car drivers involved in an accident with a motorcycle up say they never saw the motorcycle. Car drivers don't want to hit you. But some of them need extra help to know you're there. Do all you can to make it easier for them to see you. Use your high beam during the day. Wearing something bright wouldn't hurt, either. A brightly colored upper garment worn during the day and a reflective garment worn at night is required by NTC policy letter #31. Where you ride can prevent accidents too. Areas around shopping districts are the worst. Limited-access roadways such as freeways are good because car drivers can't turn across your right-of-way, so use freeways as much as you can **In busy urban traffic, stay in the mix with the cars.** Not out ahead of them; not behind. When you go through intersections where cross-traffic wants to use the pavement you own, stay right next to a car's front fender so you're not in the driver's blind spot and use the car as a shield. This is especially true at night because it's even harder for car drivers to distinguish a motorcycle from nearby traffic. If you're alone when you come up to an intersection where a car is waiting to cross your path, the more lateral distance you put between your path and the cars starting point the better. If you're nearing an intersection where a car coming from the opposite direction can turn across your path, move to a lane closer to the curb. It'll make it easier for the car driver to see you, and give you more time to react, which is probably even more important than skilled braking. Many riders involved in collisions with cars are the ones 30 yards ahead of a group of cars, or 20 yards behind. Keep your eye on a vehicle that's positioned where it could



PROTECTIVE GEAR

21 Apr 06- approximately 2400 hours, An Operations Group Soldier was killed as a result of a motorcycle accident. The Soldier was not wearing any PPE, his BAC was 0.13. In accordance with NTC Policy Letter #31, Anyone operating a motorcycle, moped, motor scooter, or ATV, and their passengers, on Fort Irwin will wear complete PPE. Soldiers operating any of these vehicles off post are required to wear the same PPE. Civilian operators are strongly encouraged to wear complete PPE off the installation. Properly fitted and functional PPE makes riding more comfortable and much safer. Studies of 'survivability' of various garment materials to a 50 MPH ride on asphalt, for example, denim lasted no more than FOUR FEET before wearing through. Kevlar, on the other hand, lasted EIGHTEEN FEET. But standard motorcycle quality (about three times heavier than fashion jacket material) lasted EIGHTY-SIX FEET. That's more than 20 times as effective as your jeans in protecting your skin. You must wear a Department of Transportation (DOT) approved helmet properly fastened under the chin. A brightly colored helmet with reflective tape or decal is encouraged. Remember More lives have been saved than lost because of wearing helmets. More injuries have been minimized

STOPPING SAFELY

4.5 seconds is not a lot of time - but it could be the rest of your life. 4.5 seconds is about how long it takes you to stop your motorcycle after applying your brakes at 60 MPH. At 60 MPH you travel 88 FEET in 1 second! It usually takes about .7 seconds to recognize a threat. A person with normal reflexes takes about .3 seconds to start braking from the moment he realizes he has to do so. Combined, that's about 1 full second from the time a threat presents itself to you and you begin to slow down. The simple practice of always covering your front brake can shave a full tenth of a second (1/3!!) of that time away. That's almost 9 FEET!

PRE-ACCIDENT PLAN

Here are a few pre-accident plan tips

- Carry a cellular phone when you ride, if possible. If you don't have one, ask who in the group has one and where on the bike it is kept.
- Carry legible ID and keep it current. If you've moved since your driver's license was issued, you can get a ticket for failing to update it -- as well as cause confusion about such basics as "where does she live?" Check or sign the organ donor box on it, if you would want to donate in a worst-case scenario.
- Carry a list of medications you take routinely and keep it current. List allergies or medical conditions that EMS techs/doctors need to know about to treat you.
- Carry a list of persons to contact and their current telephone numbers, including area codes. If those living with you are likely to be hard to reach, or you live alone, friends who ride with you should be able to figure out easily who to call from information on your bike or your person.
- If you're riding with someone who goes down and are helping at an accident scene,